



## Board of Public Education

EX-100-1 5  
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HB 2 - approp/Edu  
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Chairman Wells and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Education

For the record, my name is Kirk Miller. I am the Superintendent of Havre Public Schools and a member of the Montana Board of Education for the past 11 years.

Please accept this letter as my written testimony in strong support of the budget requests of the State Superintendent for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). As a member of the Board of Public Education, board members work in partnership with the State Superintendent and OPI in the implementation of the board's rules on accreditation of K-12 schools and the teacher education programs of the Montana University System.

Two proposals for new funding are of special importance to the Board of Public Education.

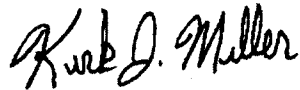
1. The K-12 Data Systems are critical to the policy-making functions of the board. The comprehensive data provided through the Achievement in Montana system, or AIMS system, will provide information to the board and to all Montanans about student learning and instructional needs. In addition, the proposed addition of a staffing module will provide information necessary to inform policy decisions about current and future staffing of K-12 schools. Several local school districts in Montana, including Havre Public Schools, are adopting the Infinite Campus Student Information System for their district. It is absolutely critical that the state data system is there to support the work of individual school districts and schools to provide parents, the community, and the state with information about their schools.

2. The Curriculum Specialists Support to Quality Schools proposal will provide needed assistance to all Montana K-12 educators in helping schools to meet the accreditation standards of the board. Currently there are two staff that annually provide the State Superintendent and board with recommendations of accreditation status of Montana's 840 K-12 public schools. With such a small staff, the accreditation process cannot provide Montana educators with the tools they need to implement the accreditation standards and to enhance student learning. The addition of six curriculum specialists will enable the OPI and Board of Public Education to work in collaboration with Montana educators to provide critical assistance to the accreditation process. The critical accreditation components include Content and Performance Standards, development of model curricula and model classroom assessments, and assistance to educators in the implementation and evaluation of the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plans as required in the accreditation standards. These additional services will help to ensure a quality system of quality schools for all Montana students. Further, the curriculum specialists will provide leadership in the required accreditation

reviews of the teacher educator programs in the units of the Montana University System. Work with the teacher preparation programs will improve the training of the future educators of our state.

Thank you for your consideration of the State Superintendent's budget requests. Your approval will have a great impact on the future of our state. Working together we can provide the quality education Montana students deserve, promoting a brighter future for Montana.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirk J. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirk J. Miller, Ed.D.  
Montana Board of Public Education